



Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

NEXT MEETING:



Due to Memorial Day Holiday
FBA Meeting will be held
on TUESDAY, MAY 31

8 PM

St. Paul's Parish House
2430 'K' Street, NW

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF FOGGY BOTTOM

by Antoinette J. Lee

Foggy Bottom's identity is a product of its natural topographical assets as they have been altered by man-made "improvements." Like the entire District of Columbia, Foggy Bottom's natural landscape served as the city planners' clay, moulded by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and his successors into a rich complex of radial and grid streets, high and low-rise buildings, green open space, monuments, and shoreline.

To the city's earliest planners, Foggy Bottom fell into that area between Tyber Creek (present day location of Constitution Avenue) and Rock Creek. They were faced with two prominent features within this section of the new capital city: the huge rock called the "Key of Keys" and, just to the north, the hill variously referred to as "Observatory Hill," "Camp Hill," and "Peter's Hill" (after Robert Peter, early proprietor of a section of Foggy Bottom known as "Mexico").

The Key of Keys protruded just at the shoreline of the Potomac River, halfway between 23rd and 25th Streets. This rock outcropping was of such height and length that it bestowed a picturesque element in the bucolic setting. It was considered to be the "greatest of all landing places." It was not surprising that it became the focus of the busy waterfront activities that early on gave the lowlands of Foggy Bottom a distinctively port-town flavor. This inviting rock was later used as a quarry. It became further disfigured by blasting activities which accompanied the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal's connection with the City Canal (shaped out of Tyber Creek).

With the reclamation of the Potomac Flats in the last two decades of the nineteenth century a quarter of a mile of flat

land separated the rock from the new Potomac River shoreline. By the end of the nineteenth century, this once prominent geological landmark was reduced to three small ledges, only a vestige of its former self. The site suffered the additional insult of being used as a trash dump. In 1896, an article in the Washington Star described the site as a "depression along the ledge of rocks" and harbored the hope that the "remnants of the ancient and historic rock" might be preserved.

Foggy Bottom's other natural landmark, Observatory Hill, enjoyed a brighter fate. The eminence, commanding a spectacular view of the Potomac River, the Virginia shore, and the circle of hills that ring the river-bottom city, was envisioned as a desirable location for a fort, a barracks, or a national university. Instead, the Naval installation and hospital occupied the site. They were factors in the concentration of the smart military set along residential F and G Streets in the nineteenth century. Fortunately, this topographical feature—hill and historical buildings—has been left intact despite the fast-moving changes that have so altered its immediate surroundings.

Stretching southward from Observatory Hill are the opulent green lands of West Potomac Park. The reclaimed Potomac Flats provided the man-made stage upon which smaller park designs were fashioned. Some of these designs, like the Lincoln Memorial and its Reflecting Pool, are formal set-pieces intended for promenading, while areas to their immediate north and south are left open for active sports. Although they fall into the jurisdiction of the National Capital Parks, these open spaces are also Foggy Bottom's very own neighborhood parks.

SQUARE 121 HEARING

Mon., June 6, 1977, 1 p.m., room 11A, District Building: The D.C. Zoning Commission will have the next session of the hearing on G.W.U.'s application for the rezoning of square 121 so that they may build a large office building there for the World Bank. There have been three sessions (about 21 hours of testimony) so far and the commission is now hearing the opposition's case. Concordia Church has withdrawn its property from the application so that the University is the sole remaining applicant for the zoning change and PUD. The University has also reached an agreement with Mrs. Obeir (one of the parties in opposition and owner of one of the Lenthall Houses, a national historic landmark) to buy her property and restore and maintain both Lenthall Houses on an appropriate site within the campus area.

The parties in opposition who will continue to present their case on June 6 are the Foggy Bottom and West End ANC, the Committee for the Campus, and Don't Tear It Down. Both the Foggy Bottom Association and the West End Citizens Association have joined in opposing the University's proposal. Councilmembers John Wilson, Marion Barry and Douglas Moore spoke in opposition to the proposed building at the April 4th hearing. It is expected that the hearing will be completed at the June 6th session. Any residents of the neighborhood who wish to add their voices in opposition to the development may speak as "persons in opposition" after the parties in opposition have completed their case. This is Zoning Commission Case No. 76-14P. Call Ann Loikow (337-2879) or Harold Davitt (333-0017) for more information.



Foggy Bottom Art Show

RESCHEDULED FOR
JUNE 19

Because of concurrent scheduling of several other art shows in the area, and our desire to have as many artists as possible exhibit in our show, we have rescheduled the Foggy Bottom Arts Show for Sunday, June 19, from 1 to 5 PM (weather permitting) in the courtyard of the Intrigue Hotel 824 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.

Exhibits will be limited to paintings, prints and sculptures for sale/show. Prospective entrants should contact Dick Palco (337-4910) after 5:15 PM for information.

Come to the courtyard, enjoy some art, wine and cheese, and, if you're lucky, become the owner of a print donated by German-born actress Elke Sommer.

Seen Around the Bottom

I think I signed on our most senior Foggy Bottom Association Member—Mrs. Lena Sebastian, 85 years young, paid her \$3.00 and became a member of FBA in early May. I talked to Mrs. Sebastian at length one morning and she told me all sorts of things which I will relate here for you. Mrs. S. asked me to call her "Lena" so I'll do that. Lena has lived at 2306 H Street for 65 years plus. She and her husband Richard moved in when the house was newly built by Harry Kite, a local builder, in 1911, paying \$3,250 (at \$20 per month) for a six room brick house with a front porch, small front and large back yard. They paid \$36 to have electricity put in the house; they were the first in the neighborhood to have electricity in their home. Lena is one of the few original owners in FB who are not interested in selling their property. "Where else would I go, this is my home" is how she puts it. Hold on, Lena; we need a few more hardliners like you.

Lena is a member of the Concordia Lutheran Church at 20th and G Sts. but she has been attending St. Mary's Episcopal Church recently due to a bad fall she had. She slipped on some pebbles on the sidewalk which caused her to fall. After surgery and 4½ months in George Washington Hospital she came home with a "plastic leg" as she calls it. This has slowed her down some physically but not mentally; she is as alert as can be. And, do you know that she can read beautifully without glasses! As she says, "I was never sick a day in my life and that hospital was really something—4½ months!" I can believe her frustration.

Lena's husband Richard was born in Georgetown and later moved to the Bottom. He was a park policeman at the Zoo when salaries were \$1,800 per year and you furnished and maintained your own uniforms and there wasn't any pension plan. Richard died in 1933 and Lena now has only one living relative, a niece living in Manassas, Va. Lena is a

native Washingtonian; she was born at 1017 N. Capitol Street, close to the Government Printing Office, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Gonzaga Boys and Notre Dame Girls Schools.

Lena has a house mate, Mary Rebaze, who has lived with her for 25 years. May is retired from Kann's Department Store (which is also retired from our Washington scene, I'm sorry to say. Kann's had the best housewares department in town, in my opinion, bar none).

Lena and I have a mutual friend, Louise Deuringer Pratt, who joined with us in our chat. Louise is younger than Lena but she has a steel trap memory of things her parents told her about the Bottom and her own memories. You can imagine the trouble I had keeping up with the "Do you remember?" of those two Bottomites! Louise was born in the Bottom in 1909; her parents, Bertha Weber and August Deuringer both came to this country in their early teens from Germany. They wound up in the Bottom where the Irish worked in the Gas House and the Germans worked in the Brewery. Louise's father worked in Heurich's Brewery. Louise was born and raised at 518-23rd Street, where the Golden Table Restaurant is now. In 1928 Louise's family moved to The Maderia Apartments at 707-22nd Street (still there but now owned by George Washington University). This is right next door to Margolis Harberdashers. Louise said in those days they referred to Margolis' as "The Tailor's". Shortly after the Brewery closed Louise's father went to work for Carry's Ice Cream Company, as did many of the other Brewery men.

Louise attended Toner School at 24th and F Sts and "did some time" at Grant School. Even though Louise and her parents moved from the Bottom in 1933 she has maintained her Bottom relationships over all

(Cont. on page 3)

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to Foggy Bottom Association
members & friends:

Dear Editor and Foggy Bottom Residents;

If you want the long awaited residential parking sticker program in Foggy Bottom, write the Mayor. ASAP!

For two years now, we have been waiting for the residential parking sticker program to be implemented in Foggy Bottom.

The superior Court ruled two months ago that the Foggy Bottom area could not be a party to or be affected by the suit against the Program brought by the Georgetown merchants saying in effect that the Mayor was free to initiate the program in our area. Prior to the court ruling the office of the Mayor had cited this pending action as the reason for delaying implementation in this and other parts of the City.

However, there is no evidence that we in Foggy Bottom are about to receive the long awaited and very needed parking permit program in the near future. It is necessary to let the mayor know our degree of concern and our interest in immediate implementation. With out the residential parking permit program our problems in Foggy Bottom are only going to increase.

WRITE to Mayor Walter Washington, City Hall, Washington, D.C. 20004 and let him know that residents of Foggy Bottom want and need the parking permit program now—not for the Tricentennial.

A draft letter for your convenience is located elsewhere in this issue.

Sincerely,
Marthlu Bledsoe

April 12, 1977

Proposed Budget for Calendar Year January 1977 to
January 1978

FOGGY BOTTOM AND WEST END ADVISORY
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

Continuing Expenses

Staff Consultant fee—20 hours per week @ \$5.00 per hour (consultant began March 14)	\$4800.00*
telephone—2 lines @ 110 calls per month—business tele- phone	350.00
type writer rental @ \$50 per month	600.00
letterhead and envelopes including typeset & printing (also including typeset/art/layout for announce- ments)	100.00
General office supplies inc. postage, xerox, etc. @ \$50 per mo.	600.00*
Commissioner's expenses—\$25 per month per 6 Com- missioners	1800.00*
Printing @ \$500 per quarter	2000.00
	\$11,009.00 Sub total
One time expenses	
Furniture—not available from GSA—2-three drawer files bookcase, typingtable, etc.	400.00*
Telephone answering device	150.00*
Telephone installation including security deposit	209.00
	\$ 759.00 Sub total
GRAND TOTAL '77	\$10,250.00

*not to exceed per month amount with out prior authorization nor will suc-
ceeding months amounts be issued with out receipts or explanation for prior
months expenditures.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF INTEREST TO F.B. AREA:

1. Wed., June 1, 1977, 10 a.m., Con-
ference Room, 10th floor, 1325 G.
Street, N.W.: Joint Committee on
Landmarks of the National Capital
will hold a hearing on whether the
1900 block of G St. N.W., south side,
should be given landmark status. The
applicant is the Committee for the
Campus. This block is the northern
border of square 121 and the appli-
cation covers the five houses, the
Concordia United Church of Christ,
and the church rectory.

2. Mon., June 13, 1977 at 1 p.m., in
room #11A of the District Building:
the D.C. Zoning Commission will
hold a public hearing on the MPO
draft article for the zoning regula-
tions governing the planning of uni-
versity campuses (i.e., University
procedure that requires universities
in residentially zoned areas (such as
the G.W. campus) to apply to the
Board of Zoning Adjustment for ap-
proval of proposed buildings. If you
are interested in this proposal and
would like more information please
call Ann Loikow (337-2879) or Harold
Davitt (333-0017). This is Zoning
Commission Case No. 76-9.

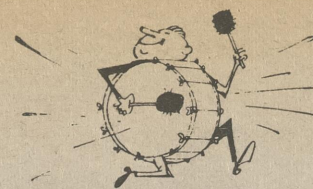
3. Thursday July 7 and July 14th, in
the 10th floor conference room at
1325 G St. N.W. (time to be
announced—call 382-1161 prior to
the meeting to check): The National
Capital Planning Commission
(NCPC) will hold public hearings on
the Foreign Missions and Inter-
national Agencies component of the
Comprehensive Plan for D.C. This is
of great interest to the F.B. Area in
that we are immediately adjacent to
the recommended area for devel-
opment of the international agencies
(i.e., World Bank, OAS, World Health
Organization, etc.) and our area is
noted as an appropriate location for
the placement of foreign missions
(embassies and chanceries). Copies
of the proposal may be gotten from
Samuel Frazier, Chief, Office of the
Public Affairs of the NCPC, 382-1161.
The ANC will be preparing testi-
mony on this important subject. If
you would like more information call
Ann Loikow (337-2879) or Harold
Davitt (333-0017).

G.W. CHARTER AMENDMENT

4. The House District Committee
has been considering a bill (H.R.
2700) introduced Jan. 31, 1977, Con-
gressmen Fisher, Fauntroy, Harris, &
Streets and Congresswoman Spell-
man which would amend and restate
the federal charter of George Wash-
ington University. This bill has receiv-
ed little attention from the public
although "hearings" were held on it
by Congressman Mazzoli's Judiciary
Subcommittee on May 3rd. Both the
ANC and the Committee for the
Campus were denied a chance to
publicly testify on this bill. The bill is
interesting primarily for what it
deletes rather than for what powers it
adds to G.W.'s charter. The ANC has
several people researching its impli-
cations. If you are concerned about
this subject, write Congressman
Fauntroy and demand that the bill
receive more open and extensive
consideration as G.W. has not been
an institution that has had the inter-
ests of this area or the city at large
close to its heart in the past and the
community is actively contesting cer-
tain of the University's current plans
for further development at this time.

RENT CONTROL

5. The City Council's Housing and
Urban Affairs Committee, chaired by
Councilmember Nadine Winter is
currently considering a new "Rent
Control" bill. There are no plans for a
public hearing. In fact, Mrs. Winter is
hoping to push her bill through at an
expedited pace so that it will be in
effect before the current legislation
expires on Oct. 31. The bill has a
number of serious shortcomings: (a)
It proposes to completely decontrol
rents after July 1, 1980. (b) It offers
landlords an immediate and auto-
matic rent increase from two to nine
percent for the first year it is in effect
(depending on what utilities a land-
lord pays). This is an across the board
increase which does not take into



consideration that various landlords
may be in differing financial circum-
stances to be operating with varying
degrees of efficiency. (c) For each
year thereafter until rents are com-
pletely decontrolled, landlords are
guaranteed an additional increase of
one to 4.5% (again depending on
how much of the utilities the land-
lord pays). (d) In addition, the hard-
ship provision of the bill guarantees
landlords a rate of return tied to the
home mortgage usury rate so that as
interest rates go up so will the profit
landlords will be guaranteed. (e) The
original draft of the bill contained no
protections against evictions
(although the bill repeals the cur-
rent law and the protections con-
tained in it). (f) Finally, unlike the cur-
rent law, the bill makes no provision
for the refund of rent illegally col-
lected in violation of the rent ceil-
ings. These are just a few of the
problems with this proposal. If you
are a tenant and concerned about
rent control write Councilmember
Winter and demand that public hear-
ings be held and that she not try to
undertake such a massive revision of
the city's rent control structure with-
out allowing the residents of the city
to have major input into the
proposal. If her expedited schedule
is adhered to, the District will have a
new statute by the summer's end
incorporating many of the provi-
sions outlined above.

May 1977 SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS BEGIN

Summer hours at West End
Library begin on May 28 and are
as follows:

Open 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM on
Tuesdays and Thursdays;
Open 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM on
Mondays, Wednesdays and
Fridays.



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Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom
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a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

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FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

c/o West End Library
24th and L Sts., NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Next Edition's Deadline Wednesday June 1

The opinions expressed in this publications are those of the
writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorse-
ment nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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Foggy Bottom-West End

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2A

The Foggy Bottom & West End ANC held its May business meeting on May 4th at St. Paul's Church. Commissioners Bledsoe, Davitt, Loikow and Schilke were in attendance. Commissioners J.R. Black and J. Slicer were absent. The major items of business were as follows:

1. Diana Schilke of SMD 02, recently sworn in as Commissioner, was elected to fill the vacant post of Secretary of ANC 2A.

2. The Budget for ANC 2A was read and approved as follows. It is scheduled to be read for final approval on May 11 at a special purpose meeting called by the ANC Commissioners.

3. The Square 121 World Bank Building case was reviewed, and the last hearing, April 28, before the Zoning Commission was reported on. The next and fourth session will be Monday, June 6th at 1:00 in the District Building rm 11A. Everyone interested and able to attend is strongly urged to do so—it is not necessary to speak; physical support (e.g. numbers of people in attendance) does make a significant impression. The hearing will probably continue into the evening hours so those unable to attend during the afternoon are encouraged to stop by after work. (see article on page one).

4. Right-Turn-On-Red legislation is currently under consideration by the D.C. Council. Anyone with opinions on this issue is encouraged to write to Ward 2's Councilman John Wilson, at the Council of the District of Columbia, the District Building, 14th & E Sts., N.W., Wash D.C. 20004, and let him know what type of implementation is desired, if any.

5. A decision was made to have a Forum on Rent Control to help residents understand the complex issues and proposed legislation. The Forum will be held approximately 1 week before hearings to be scheduled by the DC Council (however, Councilmember Nadine Winter has voiced the possibility of not holding further hearings.) Those interested should watch for flyers and announcements as to the date of the Forum.

6. Area residents who continue to be fed up with the parking situation found in Foggy Bottom and West End are encouraged to write to Mayor Walter Washington and request that the approved Parking Program be implemented. A lawsuit in Georgetown has held up implementation, but it has been ruled that that lawsuit should not interfere with implementation of the program in other areas of the city. A sample letter follows for those who wish to use it.

7. The meeting dates for the next two ANC 2A meetings are: June 7 (Tuesday), 8:00, St. Stephen's Church, July 12 (Thursday).

[sample letter]

Hon. Walter Washington
Mayor, District of Columbia
District Building
14th & E Streets, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Washington:

I would like to draw your attention to the severe parking problem the residents of the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhood have to contend with. We have long had to compete with growing numbers of students at George Washington University, employees of the World Bank and State Department, audiences attending the Kennedy Center and other clients and employees of the area for a diminishing number of parking spaces. This competition for parking obstructs the flow of traffic and encourages illegal parking, to say nothing of the time we have wasted and frustration we residents have felt trying to park within and reasonable (and at night, safe) distance from our homes.

I respectfully request that the District of Columbia Government immediately implement a Residential Parking Permit Program such as has been approved for the area and has been implemented in other areas of the city. This program would considerably ease the problems encountered and frustration experienced by me and other residents who have vehicles we must use and park during the day.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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SEEN AROUND THE BOTTOM (con't.)

these years; she almost bought an apartment in the Potomac Plaza. She has many fond memories of "Kicking up her heels at the dances given at St. Stephen's"; some lousy ones of a teacher at Grant who gave her a hard time during World War I because she was of German descent.

• Both Lena and Louise say that the Bottom was full of stores, bars, all kinds of people services—a store on practically every corner! I wish this type service was not fast disappearing from our area. You could get anything, they say, including "getting fat" from the smell of the Gas House! You know Lena said she actually liked the smell of the Gas House. I guess as it was bread and butter to so many people I can see how it smelled sweet; and that smell did keep some of us other-siders out of the Bottom. They both remember Heurich's Flats, an apartment building on G St. at 25th where many workers of the Brewery lived, O'Connors Bar Room at 24th and G, Mr. Egolf's Pub (later Pete Daly's) at 25th and G, Feldman's and Silverman's Grocery stores on 24th St., Bender's Bakery a few doors from Number 23 Fire House and G St. Mr. Bender lived here, baked his goodies at his house and sold them at the Western Market at 21st and K Sts. Louise loved to work at the Bakery on Saturdays when she was out of school.

• Lena says, "it is true what they say about Snow's Court; she wouldn't venture in there without her husband—in full uniform." Louise says—"Oh, it wasn't that bad." What a difference 15 years in age makes!

• Most everyone remembers Heurich's Brewery but Louise and Lena also remember the Abner and Drury Brewery at 25th and G. Do you?

• Lena remembers when World War I was still on in 1918 "a terrible explosion in the middle of the night shattered windows and shook houses, causing everybody in the neighborhood to run outside to see what "the war was doing". They were really frightened when they saw a great big hole in the ground at 24th and Eye. She also remembers the signing of the Armistice when everyone ran out into the street, crying in joy that the war was over.

• So many names kept flying around in Lena's and Louise's conversation that I couldn't keep up with them all. Here are a few; maybe some of you other old timers in the Bottom will remember some of them: Paul Muir (still living in Virginia and saying the biggest mistake he ever made was to sell his house and move away from the Bottom). Muir has a butter, egg and cheese stand in the Western Market, the Morrisseys, Dr. Hart, the Flannagans, Dr. Dawes and his Drugstore at 23rd and H, Dr. Quigley fixing up his remedies for all the kids in the neighborhood when they had a cold; Margaret Streeter, Wallace Chardella, and on and on.

• Lena Sebastian was a real worker, always on the go doing something for the Church, serving dinners, helping with the sick in the neighborhood, doing a lot of charity work for the German

Orphan Home on Good Hope Road in Southeast. Louise's Mother, Bertha Deuringer, did the same kind of thing only she concentrated on the Eleanor Ruppert Home for the Elderly on Good Hope Road. I'm sure that these good works and activities are what kept these two lovely ladies young for so long. Louise's mother and father are no longer here but I remember how active they were in helping others.

• Lena has a 60 year old cast iron Boston Bull terrier guarding her front door (odd coincidence, I have one too, doing practically the same thing). Lena also has a 14 year old cat who recently had four kittens, and to show you there is no grass growing on Lena she ended our talk by telling me that "you would think that old cat would know better by now!"

• To you, Lena Sebastian and to you, Louise Deuringer Pratt, thank you for a very interesting and pleasant morning. I'm sure that I have not really done your memories of the Bottom full justice but hopefully your interest in and love for the neighborhood will come across to our readers—you, Lena, because you are still here, and you, Louise, because you have never lost "your first love for the Bottom". Good health to both of you.

Mary E. Healy

Harding Salon of Beauty



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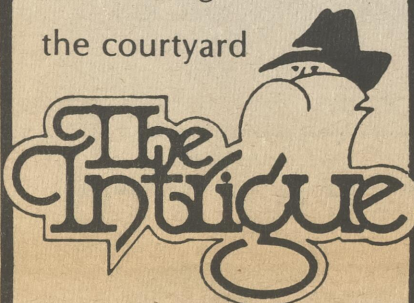
Classified Advertising

Classified advertising rate is ten cents a word, one dollar minimum, payment in advance. Mail (not later than first of month for which intended) to: Foggy Bottom News, c/o West End Library, 1101 24th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037.

CLOCK RESTORATION: Marcel Sanson, and old French clockman, can restore any of your antique clocks. Grandfather, Mantel, French, etc. Call 966-3936 day or evenings.

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June 3-4 Five Easy Pieces Carnal Knowledge	June 10-12 Scent of Woman Swept Away
June 5-6 Passage to Marseilles High Sierra	

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Foggy Bottom Farmer

June; what is so rare as a day in!—new growth on treetop branches, soft and supple, dancing on the breeze, billowing up like the cumulus clouds rising rose tinted in the eastern evening sky, leaves, wind up-lifted showing their silvery under side. June!—June of roses, June of Martins arching the blue above the housetops, and Swallows skimming the still Potomac; Fishermen at Rock Creek inlet; midstream, banks of long oars rise and dip from slim mahogany shells crewed by D.C. and Virginia undergraduates. Mallards are in the streamside shadows and backwaters by Roosevelt Island.

Summer soon to come with multiplying delights must be prepared for it enjoyed. Here are some preparation hints for the gardener: 1) Remove the drudgery of cultivation by applying mulch (bark, black plastic, pebbles, straw, etc.) to all exposed earth, and potted or tubed plants; 2) anticipate insect and disease attacks by exercising preventative procedures, i.e. spray or dust every two weeks during the still of the day; 3) Check soil and containers for proper drainage, and deep spade peatmoss and sand into heavy soils; 4) water thoroughly but not too frequently—if possible, in the evening in order to avoid excessive loss from evaporation; 5) Study the diagnosis of symptoms in developing preventative procedures such as a) Leaves and stems covered with a sticky, glistening fluid denotes the presence of aphid sucking insects; b) Yellowing of an entire plant may be due to too much shade, insufficient nutrients, burning of leaves by fertilizer contact; c) Yellowing of leaves followed by falling may indicate over-watering, hot drying wind or mid-summer neglect; d) leaves depigmented in patches can be from chewing insects; e) Immature plants growing not at all are hungry; feed weekly with a water-soluble fertilizer until growth ensues.

If you have a real PROBLEM phone or write to the Plant Pathologist, D.C. Cooperative Extension Service, Washington Technical Institute 1351 Nicholson St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. Phone 629-7704.

William S. Lattin



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